

Historic Heber Site

May 23rd
1962?

LDS Presidency Okes Razing of Tabernacle

Special to The Tribune
HEBER CITY—The First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has given the green light for a new two-ward and stake center to replace the present Wasatch Stake Tabernacle.

Bids from contractors for the razing of the Tabernacle will be taken soon, according to the office of J. Haroll Call, president of the Wasatch Stake, and the building program will begin immediately.

No Target Date

While no target date for completion has been set it is estimated the new construction will cost an estimated \$435,000, and the Wasatch Stake will need to raise about 11 per cent of the cost or about \$47,850.

Mr. Call's office reports the Wasatch Stake must have \$47,000 raised before construction can get under way, but that "most of this amount is already available." The new building will be built under the Missionary Building program.

The issue of what to do with the present Tabernacle has been debated for the last year since plans were first announced the historic building would be demolished.

Council Investigates

A committee of the LDS Council of the Twelve Apostles investigated several possibilities on what to do about a new construction and then made recommendations to the First Presidency in Salt Lake City.

A letter signed by Church President David O. McKay and President Hugh B. Brown, first counselor in the First Presidency, giving permission for the razing and new construction said:

"You are at liberty to proceed to raze the old building and to go forward in the regular way to do what will be necessary to have a new building erected on the present site."

City officials had requested the church make a donation of the building and land to the city, but this was denied.

Great Loss

Everett Cooley, Director of Utah State Historical Society, called the plans for razing the Tabernacle a "great mistake and great loss to Heber City, Wasatch County and the state of Utah."

Mr. Cooley had spearheaded a campaign last year, including a fund drive from citizens throughout the state, in an effort to save the historic building.